



Gates Foundation commits \$200 million to pay for medical supplies and contraception

By THALIA BEATY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$200 million to help save the lives of mothers and children during childbirth, as the largest American philanthropic donor throws its weight behind the issue during the nonprofit's annual Goalkeepers conference on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. Melinda French Gates, who says the issue is personal to her, smiled broadly as she introduced herself not just as the co-founder and co-chair of the foundation but as "Nona," or grandmother, gesturing to her oldest daughter, Jennifer, who was seated in the audience in New York on Wednesday.



Bill and Melinda Gates pose for a photo in Kirkland, Wash., Feb. 1, 2019.

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Gates Foundation commits \$200 million to pay for medical supplies and contraception

Continued from Front

The foundation pledged \$100 million each to health products manufacturer Unitaid, and UNFPA, the U.N. agency for reproductive health, to fund access to health care and contraceptive supplies and information in low- and middle-income countries. The Gates Foundation has been a major supporter of Unitaid, donating \$50 million in each 2012 and 2017, according to the foundation's grant database.

Founded in 2017, the Goalkeepers initiative is how the foundation tracks progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, which U.N. member countries agreed in 2015 to meet by 2030. The goals set lofty targets to reduce poverty, improve health and education and protect the environment, though progress toward achieving them has fallen significantly off track, especially following the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

In an effort to reach an audience outside of government officials, experts and policy circles, the foundation hosted an award ceremony in New York Tuesday evening and recruited social media influencers to cover it, said Blessing Omakwu, who leads the Goalkeepers initiative.

"My goal is they go back



A person walks by the headquarters of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on April 27, 2018, in Seattle.

and take these things that we said in a very policy way and make it accessible to their followings and say, 'Look, this matters. You should care about maternal health,'" she said.

French Gates recognized former President Jimmy Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter with a lifetime achievement award, pointing in part Carter's long commitment to the elimination of guinea worm disease. Singer Bono also received a special award for his work advocating over many years for access to health care in developing countries and for the role he played in launching the U.S. President's Emer-

gency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR.

The program to combat HIV/AIDS was created by President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress two decades ago and is credited with saving 25 million lives. The fate of the program, set to expire at the end of September, is uncertain because of a demand from Republican lawmakers to bar nongovernmental organizations that used any funding from providing or promoting abortion services.

Bill Gates was absent from the award ceremony Tuesday because he had been invited to attend an event with President Joe Bi-

den, French Gates said on stage. The two announced their divorce in 2021 but committed to continuing to work together at the foundation.

Speaking of the future of PEPFAR on Wednesday, Bill Gates said the idea the program would not continue is quite scary, given that it continues to provide life saving medications for millions of people around the world.

"It's a shame that, at least temporarily, this is caught up in sort of a, 'Does the U.S. reach out to the world and help the world?' — some of those controversies. I think we will overcome that because the U.S. has a lot

to be proud on this one," Gates said.

Gates also made the case for a suite of interventions to prevent the deaths of children in the year after they are born, which he said was one of the first priorities of the foundation. He spoke with emotion about a visit he made to a South African clinic, where doctors asked the mother of a child who had died that day if she would allow them to try to determine more specifically the cause of the baby's death as a part of a larger study. Cumulatively, the results of that study, which the foundation funded, has advanced knowledge about the causes of infant mortality.

The foundation also recognized the leaders of projects they said exemplified the aims of the development goals, including Eden Tadesse from Ethiopia, who designed a platform to provide job opportunities to refugees, and Aidan Reilly, Ben Collier, and James Kanoff, who started a project that delivers vegetables and produce that otherwise would be thrown out to food banks in the U.S. Award winner Ashu Martha Agbornyenty, a midwife from Cameroon, called the foundation's recognition of her work a victory for those who study to become midwives and for the health of women in her country. □



An American flag is unfurled at the Pentagon, in Washington, Sept. 11, 2021, at sunrise on the morning of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Associated Press

By TARA COPP
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon began a new

Pentagon working to restore benefits to LGBTQ+ veterans forced out under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

effort Wednesday to contact former service members who may have been forced out of the military and deprived of years of benefits due to policies targeting their sexual orientation, starting with those who served under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Under DADT, which was enacted in 1994 by President Bill Clinton and in effect until 2011, service members who had other than heterosexual orientation could serve — as long as

they kept it quiet. That led to years of discrimination, undue pressure, discharges and lost benefits.

Under DADT and previous military policies forbidding gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer personnel from serving, at least 32,837 service members since 1980 were forced out of the military for their sexual orientation, according to Department of Defense data. More than 2,000 of those service members received general, other than

honorable, or unknown discharge characterizations "that may have denied them access to veterans benefits, like home loans, health care, GI Bill tuition assistance and even some government jobs," Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks said.

"We know correcting these records cannot fully restore the dignity taken from LGBTQ+ service members when they were expelled from the military," Hicks said. □

White House to announce first-ever federal office of gun violence prevention, AP sources say

By COLLEEN LONG and SEUNG MIN KIM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is creating the first-ever federal office of gun violence prevention, according to two people familiar with the plans.

The office will coordinate efforts across the federal government and will offer help and guidance to states struggling with increasing gun violence, while taking the lead on implementation of the bipartisan gun legislation signed into law last year. Biden tentatively plans to announce the new effort with an event Friday at the White House, said the people, who had direct knowledge of the plans and who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The office fulfills a key demand of gun safety activists who banded together as a coalition to endorse Biden for president in 2024, and is an effort by the White House to keep the



President Joe Biden speaks at a leaders' reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023.

issue front-and-center as the president pushes for a ban on so-called "assault weapons" and urges Congress to act.

"The creation of an Office of Gun Violence Prevention in the White House will mark a turning point in how our federal government

responds to an epidemic that plagues every state and every community in America," said Kris Brown, president of the gun safety group Brady, which has advocated for the office since 2020.

"Tackling this epidemic will take a whole-of-govern-

ment approach, and this new office would ensure the executive branch is focused and coordinated on proven solutions that will save lives."

Greg Jackson, the executive director of the Community Justice Action Fund, and Everytown for Gun

Safety's Rob Wilcox are expected to hold roles in the newly created office, which White House staff secretary Stef Feldman will oversee, the people said. The White House's plans were first reported by The Washington Post.

"There are few people who care more about the work of gun violence prevention than President Biden," said Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., who has drafted legislation with Rep. Maxwell Frost, D-Fla., that would create such an office. "Establishing a White House office dedicated to this fight will save thousands of lives and strengthen the federal government's implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act."

Firearms are the No. 1 killer of children in the U.S., and so far this year 220 children younger than 11 have died by guns and 1,049 between the ages of 12 and 17 have died. As of 2020, the firearm mortality rate in the U.S. for those under age 19 is 5.6 per 100,000. The next comparable is Canada, with 0.08 deaths per 100,000. □

Associated Press

Trump's New York hush-money criminal trial could overlap with state's presidential primary

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York Gov. Kathy Hochul on Wednesday signed a bill setting the state's presidential primary for April 2, potentially putting former President Donald Trump on the ballot as he stands trial in Manhattan for a hush-money criminal case. The new primary date could add a new layer to an increasingly chaotic calendar for Trump next year, as the Republican frontrunner attempts to navigate court cases in multiple states while he seeks a return to the White House.

His New York trial is set to begin on March 25, and though the date could

change, it may set up an extraordinary scenario in which the former president might find himself in court as Republican voters in the

state are picking their next presidential candidate.

Trump became the first former U.S. president in history to face criminal charges



Former President Donald Trump speaks during the Pray Vote Stand Summit, Friday, Sept. 15, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

when he was indicted this year on charges in New York state stemming from hush money payments made during the 2016 presidential campaign to bury allegations of extramarital sexual encounters. He has pleaded not guilty.

Since then, Trump has been indicted in a handful of other cases, including a federal classified documents case in Florida, a federal elections interference case in Washington and an election subversion case in Georgia. He also faces two civil trials in New York, one alleging he fraudulently misstated the value of assets and another regarding the alleged defamation of a writer who accused

Trump of sexually assaulting her in the mid-1990s.

Hochul, a Democrat, signed the bill setting the new April 2 primary date after the Democrat-controlled Legislature approved it this summer.

Primary elections are set for March 19 in Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Kansas and Arizona. Pennsylvania's state Senate on Wednesday approved a bill to move their state's primary to March 19 as well, though the proposal still requires passage in the state House of Representatives.

Trump is so far leading a pack of Republican presidential hopefuls seeking the GOP nomination. □

A 96-year-old federal judge is barred from hearing cases in a bitter fight over her mental fitness

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
Associated Press

A 96-year-old U.S. federal appeals court judge was barred Wednesday from hearing cases for a year after a panel said she refused to undergo medical testing amid concerns that she is no longer mentally fit to serve on the bench.

It's the latest development in an unusually public and bitter fight over whether Judge Pauline Newman should continue to serve on the Washington-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit that has sparked a lawsuit and turned judges against one another.

Newman, a President Ronald Reagan appointee who has been on the court for nearly four decades, insists that she remains physically and mentally fit to decide matters of the law, and has accused her colleagues of making baseless claims in an effort to push her out because of her age.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit is one of 13 U.S. appellate courts. It hears cases on issues like government contracts, patents and trademarks.



The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Aug. 22, 2007, in Washington.

Associated Press

Federal judges chosen by presidents and confirmed by the U.S. Senate are appointed for life, and there's no mandatory retirement age.

The Federal Circuit's Judicial Council, which is made up of Newman's colleagues, said the suspension was necessary because the longest-serving judge on the court won't cooperate with an investi-

gation into her mental fitness despite "reasonable concerns" that she "suffers from a disability preventing her from effectively discharging the duties of her office."

The Judicial Council's order said the suspension could be renewed after a year if she continues not to cooperate, or could be rescinded if she decides to comply. The decision suspend-

ed her from hearing new cases, though there are no old cases either because was already suspended since April amid the investigation, according to her attorney, Greg Dolin said. Dolin said they will be seeking review from another committee that oversees the judicial conduct nationwide.

He said they believe the sanction is "flatly illegal,"

and that the process has been seriously flawed.

"The Judicial Council has been willing to grab onto as fact any allegation to support what appears to be a predetermined conclusion," he said.

Newman filed a federal lawsuit in May against her fellow judges over the investigation, which Newman's lawyers say was launched after she refused to resign despite demands from Chief Judge Kimberly Moore that she step down. The Judicial Council said interviews with court staff point to "significant mental deterioration including memory loss, confusion, lack of comprehension, paranoia, anger, hostility, and severe agitation."

The order said the judge had also "amassed a troubling backlog of cases" and was lagging behind her colleagues in issuing opinions.

"Judge Newman has been having trouble recalling events, conversations, and information just days old and having trouble comprehending basic information that court staff communicate to her," the council wrote. □

Google sued for negligence after man drove off collapsed bridge while following map directions

By **HANNAH SCHOENBAUM**
Associated Press/Report for America

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The family of a North Carolina man who died after driving his car off a collapsed bridge while following Google Maps directions is suing the technology giant for negligence, claiming it had been informed of the collapse but failed to update its navigation system. Philip Paxson, a medical device salesman and father of two, drowned Sept. 30, 2022, after his Jeep Gladiator plunged into Snow Creek in Hickory, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday in Wake County

Superior Court. Paxson was driving home from his daughter's ninth birthday party through an unfamiliar neighborhood when Google Maps allegedly directed him to cross a bridge that had collapsed



The Google Maps app is seen on a smartphone, March 22, 2017, in New York.

Associated Press

nine years prior and was never repaired.

"Our girls ask how and why their daddy died, and I'm at a loss for words they can understand because, as an adult, I still can't understand how those responsible for the GPS directions and the bridge could have acted with so little regard for human life," his wife, Alicia Paxson, said.

State troopers who found Paxton's body in his overturned and partially submerged truck had said there were no barriers or warning signs along the washed-out roadway. He had driven off an unguarded edge and crashed

about 20 feet below, according to the lawsuit.

The North Carolina State Patrol had said the bridge was not maintained by local or state officials, and the original developer's company had dissolved. The lawsuit names several private property management companies that it claims are responsible for the bridge and the adjoining land.

Multiple people had notified Google Maps about the collapse in the years leading up to Paxson's death and had urged the company to update its route information, according to the lawsuit. □

India asks citizens to be careful if traveling to Canada as rift widens over Sikh leader's death

By SHEIKH SAALIQ

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India on Wednesday advised its citizens to be careful when traveling to Canada as a rift between the two nations widens in the wake of Ottawa's allegations that India may have been involved in the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in suburban Vancouver.

The foreign ministry in New Delhi issued an updated travel advisory, urging its nationals and especially those studying in the North American country to be cautious because of "growing anti-India activities and politically condoned hate-crimes."

Indians should also avoid going to venues in Canada where "threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose anti-India agenda," the ministry said.

Ottawa and New Delhi, two key strategic partners



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

on security and trade, are locked in a diplomatic tussle after Canada's prime minister, Justin Trudeau, alleged that India was connected to the assassination of Sikh independence advocate on its soil in June.

Canada has yet to provide any evidence of Indian involvement in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a 45-year-old Sikh leader killed by masked gunmen in Surrey, outside Vancouver.

For years, India has said Nijjar, a Canadian citizen born in India, has links to terrorism, an allegation he denied.

Nijjar was working to organize an unofficial Sikh diaspora referendum on inde-

pendence from India at the time of his killing.

Trudeau's announcement was followed by Canada expelling an Indian diplomat in Ottawa. New Delhi responded by rejecting Trudeau's accusation as "absurd and motivated" and later expelling a Canadian diplomat.

After the travel advisory was issued Wednesday, Canadian Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc said Canada is a safe country.

"What we're doing is ensuring that there is an appropriate criminal investigation into these circumstances," he said.

Indian authorities designated Nijjar a terrorist in 2020 and accused him of supporting demands for an independent Sikh homeland, known as Khalistan, that started as an insurgency in India's Punjab state in 1970s and 1980s and was crushed in an Indian government crackdown. □

A Moscow court declines to hear an appeal by jailed US journalist Evan Gershkovich

MOSCOW (AP) — Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich appeared Tuesday in Moscow City Court, seeking release from jail on espionage charges, but it declined to hear his appeal and returned the case to a lower court to deal with unspecified procedural violations.

The decision means Gershkovich, 31, will remain jailed at least until Nov. 30, unless his appeal is heard in the meantime and he is released — an unlikely outcome.

Before the session was closed, Gershkovich appeared in the glass defendants' cage, smiling at fellow journalists and wearing a yellow sweater and blue jeans. He was detained in March while on a reporting trip to the city of Yekaterinburg, about 2,000 kilome-

ters (1,200 miles) east of Moscow.

There was initial confusion about the outcome when the state news agency Tass reported the court had rejected Gershkovich's appeal, but it later changed its report to say the case was sent to the lower court. The court proceedings are closed because prosecutors say details of the criminal case are classified. Gershkovich last appeared in court in August when a judge ruled he must stay in jail until the end of November.

Tuesday's hearing stemmed from that decision.

U.S. Ambassador to Russia Lynne Tracy made her fourth visit to Gershkovich on Friday, two days after the reporter's parents appeared at U.N. headquar-

ters and called on world leaders to urge Russia to free him. Tracy said later that Gershkovich "remains strong and is keeping up with the news," including his parents' appeal.

"The plight of U.S. citizens wrongfully detained in Russia remains a top priority for me, my team at the embassy, and the entire U.S. government," Tracy told reporters outside court. Russia's Federal Security Service alleged Gershkovich, "acting on the instructions of the American side, collected information constituting a state secret about the activities of one of the enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex."

Gershkovich and the Journal deny the allegations, and the U.S. government declared him to be wrong-

fully detained. Russian authorities haven't detailed any evidence to support the espionage charges.

He is being held at Moscow's Lefortovo prison, notorious for its harsh conditions.

Gershkovich is the first American reporter to face espionage charges in Russia since 1986, when Nicholas Daniloff, a Moscow correspondent for U.S. News and World Report, was arrested by the KGB. □



Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich stands in a glass cage in a courtroom at the Moscow City Court, in Moscow, Russia, on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023.

Associated Press

UN rights experts report a rise of efforts in Venezuela to squelch democracy ahead of 2024 election

GENEVA (AP) — A U.N.-backed panel investigating human rights violations in Venezuela said Wednesday the South American country's government has intensified efforts to curtail democratic freedoms with threats, surveillance and harassment as President Nicolás Maduro faces a re-election contest next year. The international fact-finding mission authorized by the U.N. Human Rights Council said the government shifted tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic, which marked the end of mass opposition protests and subsequent extensive arrests and torture of demonstrators. Now, the report said, authorities are increasingly repressing specific members of civil society, including politicians, labor leaders, journalists, human rights defenders and other real or perceived opponents. The targets have been subjected to detention, surveillance, threats, defamatory campaigns and arbitrary criminal proceedings on hate speech or terrorism charges, the report said. "By criminalizing



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro points while meeting Colombia's new ambassador to Venezuela, at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023.

participation in legitimate activities, the government is silencing and creating a chilling effect on anyone who might consider participating in any activity that could be perceived as critical of government," Patricia Tappatá Valdez, a member of the fact-finding mission, told reporters Wednesday.

The three-member mission said at least five arbitrary executions, 14 short-term enforced disappearances and 58 arbitrary detentions took place from January 2020 through August 2023. It also documented 28 cases of torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment of detainees, of which 19 involved sexual and

gender-based violence, during the same period. The government did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press. It has also failed to respond directly to the mission, which has not received permission to enter the country. The mission does not have judicial powers, but the

evidence it has gathered could be used by the International Criminal Court or by any country that might apply "universal jurisdiction," such as Argentina, to prosecute alleged crimes against humanity. The mission has previously decried "crimes against humanity" in Maduro's Venezuela.

The report came just over a month before a primary election organized by factions of the Venezuelan opposition to choose a candidate to face Maduro in the 2024 election. The experts noted that the government barred three potential candidates Henrique Capriles, Maria Corina Machado and Freddy Superlano from taking part.

Venezuela's government frequently sidelines adversaries by banning them from public office, and not just in presidential contests. Such a ban was used retroactively in 2021 to remove Superlano, then a gubernatorial candidate, when he was ahead of a sibling of the late President Hugo Chávez but had not yet been declared the winner. □

Associated Press

Iran's parliament passes a stricter headscarf law days after protest anniversary

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's parliament on Wednesday approved a bill to impose

heavier penalties on women who refuse to wear the mandatory Islamic headscarf in public and those



Iranian women, some without wearing their mandatory Islamic headscarves, walk in downtown Tehran, Iran, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023.

Associated Press

who support them. The move came just days after the anniversary of the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who had been detained by the morality police for violating the country's dress code. Her death in custody ignited months of protests in which many called for the overthrow of Iran's theocracy. The 70-item bill extends punishments to business owners who serve women not wearing the mandatory headscarf, known as hijab, and activists who organize against it. Violators could face up to 10 years in prison if the offense occurs in an organized way.

The bill, which was approved by 152 lawmakers in Iran's 290-seat parliament, requires ratification by the Guardian Council, a clerical body that serves as constitutional watchdog. It would take effect for a preliminary period of three years.

The demonstrations sparked by Amini's death on Sept. 16, 2022 died down early this year following a heavy crackdown on dissent in which more than 500 protesters were killed and over 22,000 detained. But many women continued to flaunt the rules on wearing hijab, prompting a new campaign to enforce them over the summer.

Iran's clerical rulers view the hijab law as a key pillar of the Islamic Republic and blamed the protests on Western nations, without providing evidence.

The protesters said they were motivated by anger over the dress code as well as what they see as the corruption and poor governance of the country's ruling clerics.

In a separate incident on Wednesday, a gunman shot a cleric to death in the northern Iranian town of Sejas. Police detained the assailant, and authorities said the motive was a personal dispute, according to the semiofficial Fars and Tasnim news agencies. □

Blackstone Beach



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth

stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.



This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is

very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th

century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba



The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a clus-

ter of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July

2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □





Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



PALM BEACH — Do you remember the film "Papillon" starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island's example where 'life imitates art.' The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

"We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget," says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière

flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week. Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night. The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in. The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. "We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too". What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit



to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

Chef's Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef's secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional 'cunucu' house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

Make your reservation today at:
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or call/WhatsApp + 00297 6995400
Open Daily: 5pm – 10.00pm – Early Bird from 5pm – 7pm

For all menus and specials visit the website:
www.papillonaruba.com.□



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Paradise Beach Villas Honors their Housekeeping Department!

(Oranjestad)—Paradise Beach Villas honored their employees of the Housekeeping Department during the International Housekeeping Week, which took place on the second week of the month of September. During the opening day Mr. Freddy Albertus, Managing Director, highlighted the tireless work, dedication, and passion of the housekeeping employees.

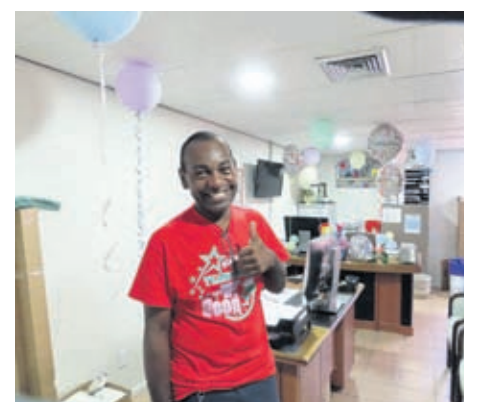
He stated that they always go the extra mile to deliver a quality product for the enjoyment of our guests.



Mrs. Lillian Britten, Resort Manager, extended her appreciation, gratitude, and recognition to each one of the employees presented. Yina Maduro, HR Manager, congratulated all employees in the celebration of this special week. The managers of the Housekeeping Department Alex Krozendijk and Jeanette Kaersenhout ordered a nice red T-shirt, a bag, and a water bottle as gifts for this special occasion. One of the activities that the employees enjoyed the most was the Bingo. Special congratulations go to Ricardo Rosario who won the Weekend Stay. A big thanks on behalf of the Managers of Paradise Beach Villas for the breakfast invitation cooked and offered by the Housekeeping staff, who demonstrated one more time, their cooking skills. A feeling of gratitude goes to the

following invitees to be part of the Housekeeping Week celebration: Hubert de Cuba for the training offered titled "Housekeeping Safety Awareness"; Ruth Schoop for the

Workshop of Mental Health; To Paradise Beach Villas for inviting all their Housekeeping employees to a whole day of excitement at the Water Park; Gina Pieters and Esther Lacle for helping to organize Housekeeping Week. To the Management of Paradise to always put their employees in the first place. A huge thanks on behalf of Housekeeping employees to Mr. Steven & Mrs. Valerie Brodbeck who during their vacations have surprised the employees with a beautiful gift made by them. This gesture demonstrated one more time that our guests appreciate and value the work of Housekeeping Department. Thank you very much! ☐



Episode 54: Bats; Valuable Pollinators and associated superstitious beliefs

Bats provide humans with uncalculated benefits at the cost of some threats. Bats are great pollinators and feeds basically from night-blooming columnar cactus flowers and fruits and agave flowers and many indangered plants and trees of the island. Bat dung has been mined as guano from caves and used as fertilizer. A healthy bat population is crucial for a healthy ecosystem. In Aruba approximately eight different bat species have been identified: insect eating bats, fruit and nectar eating bats. Both insectivores and frugivores species are masters when it comes to preserving a balance in our islands fragil biodiversity.

Insectivorous bats banquet on insects from sundown and darker hours, saving the islands annually budged millions of Aruban florins of imported toxics pesticides. There are fewer insects when bats are around that hunts insects and there are less insect pests that causes damage to vegetables and garden plants. If open air agriculture is to become a next call, farmers don't have to invest as much in pesticides and will build bat roosting boxes in order to welcome them to stay and propagate while collecting their fertilizing guano. One bat eats equally up to three times their weight on an average night!

Several species of bats of Aruba eat nectar. As mentioned, many types of our endemic plants of our ecosystem rely on bats for pollination and seed dispersal, such as the quebedexi and huliba tree. The agave species, the candela-bra cacti's such as the cadushi, the cadushi plushi and the breba etc. All around the island and in



our national park, long-nose and long-tongue bats are perfectly adapted to pollinate these plants, and they provide extensive value to the biosphere. So next time you see our agave in bloom say thank you to the bats.

People are often fascinated with bats. In fact, one of the largest tourist attractions in Austin Texas is

where more than 1.5 million bats roost during the summer months. More than 100,000 tourists come to this area annually.

Bats are associated with different cultures and mean different things to different people: In many cultures, bats are popularly associated with darkness, evil, witchcraft and death.

To the Amerindian tribes of the northwestern United States, bats are symbols of diligence; while in the Great Plains, they imparted wisdom on their people. In the southwest and Mexico, they are representative of death and rebirth, because they go underground in the early morning, and then appear again each night in a noisy hoard. So they are reborn every night, flooding out from their caves.

The mythology of the Mesoamericans have the bat as a shadow of darkness that looms over them. It is a symbol of the land of the dead and part of the underworld. When a person would see one it could mean that death or destruction was sure to happen in their near future.

The pre-Columbian culture displayed the bat as one of their legendary gods. They are often part of



the paintings and drawing of older times. Bat figures are also found in prehistoric artwork and stone work like pendants or pottery.

The Mayans had a bat god called Camazote, who was said to have tested human souls with a large sword. This is slightly negative, since the bat is associated with violence. In Biblical tradition, bats were believed to be messengers of Satan. The Puritans believed that if a bat flew close to someone, somebody was trying to bewitch them. The Chinese, however, view the bat as a symbol of happiness. They are amazing creatures. Bats often represent death in the sense of letting go of the old, and bringing in the new. They are symbols of transition, of initiation, and the start of a new beginning.

Nevertheless, bats were very important to the early settlers of Aruba, the recurrence of incorporating these flying mammals in to their artistic expressions stands as testimony in our Native Art Living Gallery at Westpunt 37A, Noord.

To immerse in what Aruba is all about. Its people, its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session which has been entertaining curious, scientist and bohemians for decades. Mail us at etniana-tiva03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



Source; Etnia Nativa

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor? The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?



There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch,

it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up

with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor

and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.

CROSSWORD

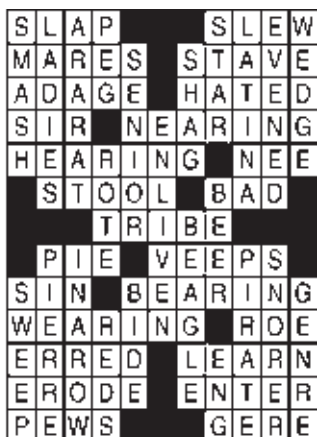
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Cushy
- 5 Square or circle
- 10 Manipulative one
- 11 Outcry
- 12 Singer Fitzgerald
- 13 1966 Paul Newman film
- 14 NFL team
- 16 NFL team
- 20 Phone feature
- 23 Suffer
- 24 Burglar's bane
- 25 Cut's counterpart
- 27 Cooking need
- 28 Under arrest
- 29 NFL team
- 32 NFL team
- 36 Looks forward to
- 39 Pump, e.g.
- 40 Like some fog
- 41 Shower square
- 42 Make blank
- 43 Auction cry

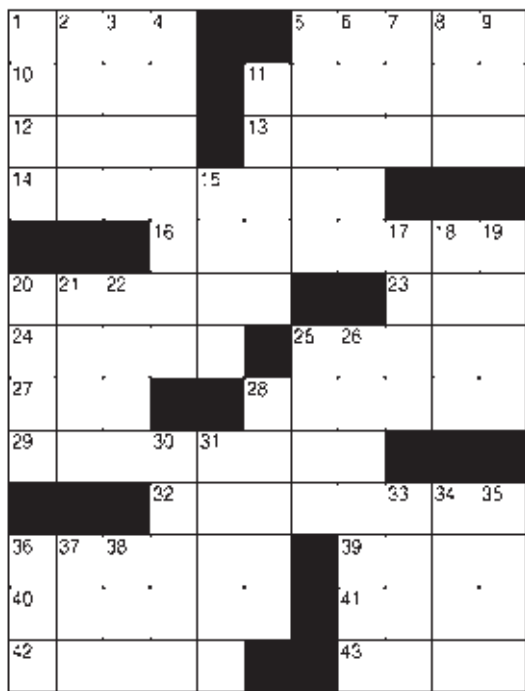
DOWN

- 1 Took to court
- 2 Capital on a fjord
- 3 Plummeted
- 4 Fur trader
- 5 Bias
- 6 Draconian
- 7 Band blaster
- 8 "Tamerlane"
- 9 Mess up
- 11 Panda's home
- 15 Injure
- 17 Compass point
- 18 Solemn act



Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 19 Iditarod item | 31 Turning tool |
| 20 Tube tops | 33 Canton's state |
| 21 Bunches | 34 Bridge fee |
| 22 Deck worker | 35 Canary snack |
| 25 Contented | 36 King Kong, e.g. |
| 26 Lends a hand | 37 Fighting |
| 28 Ross of flag fame | 38 One — time |
| 30 Sprawling tales | |



9-21

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

F W B L U I W O P W F V U O W L
W P B X U O S F U L K S Z V G X W
K Y Z Z N : F W B W O P W F V U O W L
W P B X U O K Y Z Z N S Z V G X W
S F U L — W S Z E W L V Z P I Y Z
M P Z W I

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN WORDS BECOME UNCLEAR, I SHALL FOCUS WITH PHOTOGRAPHS. ANSEL ADAMS

Student loans are back. Is it time to consolidate your credit card debt?

By JACKIE VELING
of NerdWallet

The federal student loan payment pause that began in March 2020 is ending. Loans began accruing interest on Sept. 1, and borrowers will start making payments in October.

But the restart comes at a tricky time for Americans' finances. Credit card debt is at a record high \$1 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and student loan borrowers may struggle to prioritize different types of debt.

Credit card debt is especially damaging to your finances because of its high, compounding interest. As money gets tighter, consolidating your credit card debt under a zero- or low-interest product may be a smart move.

INCREASED DEBT FOR STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS

With no student loan bills for the past three-plus years, borrowers may have used the space in their budget to take on other types of debt.

More than half of all federal student loan borrowers took out a new bank-issued credit card during the pandemic, while 36% got an auto loan and 31% signed up for a retail credit card, according to a July TransUnion study.

Liz Pagel, senior vice president of consumer lending for TransUnion, says that while some debt acquisition was a natural result of young consumers aging into new credit obligations like their first credit card the issuing of new credit also jumped to levels not seen even before the CO-



In this Feb. 2, 2011, file photo, a wallet containing cash and a Visa card is displayed in Surfside, Fla.

Associated Press

VID-19 pandemic.

"Lenders made up for lost time, and then some," Pagel says. "There was just a lot of adding to credit, and consumers that had student loans in forbearance were not immune from that."

It's not only new types of debt, but more of it. Borrowers with student loans face 24% higher median payments on other debt obligations than they did before the pandemic, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reported in June. For younger borrowers ages 18 to 29, median payments have soared 252%. The Biden administration announced a 12-month "on-ramp" to ease the transition, during which missed federal student loan payments won't be reported to the credit bureaus, and you won't default. But loans will still accrue interest, so you should pay if you can.

CONSOLIDATING CREDIT CARD DEBT

Though you want to make progress paying down all

your debts, credit card repayment should be a top priority, says Rosario Chacon, a certified financial planner and certified student loan professional in Oakland, California.

"If worse comes to worst with the federal system, you can ask for forbearance," Chacon says. "But with credit cards, there's no forbearance to protect you."

"Credit cards are so much less flexible than the federal student loan system," agrees Tricia Kollath, certified financial planner and certified student loan professional in Gulfport, Mississippi. "You can't call your credit card company and say, 'Oh, I can't make my payment this month.' They'll take you to court."

Both Chacon and Kollath suggest evaluating your budget as soon as possible to figure out how to keep paying down credit card debt as student loan payments restart.

One option may be consolidating your credit cards under a 0% balance-transfer card or a debt consolidation loan, which saves money on interest and frees up additional cash. With a 0% balance-transfer card, you transfer your credit card balances to the new card and pay off the debt at zero interest during the promotional period, sometimes 18 months or more. □

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Amazon unveils a “smarter and more conversational” Alexa amid AI race among tech companies



Amazon Echo and Echo Plus devices, behind, sit near illuminated Echo Button devices, Sept. 27, 2017, during an event announcing several new Amazon products by the company in Seattle.

Associated Press

By HALELUYA HADERO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon has unveiled a slew of gadgets and an update to its popular voice assistant Alexa, infusing it with more generative AI features to better compete with other tech companies who've rolled out flashy chatbots. During a demonstration in Washington D.C. on Wednesday, Amazon's devices chief Dave Limp said the latest language model will allow consumers to have more human-like conversations with a “smarter and more conversational” Alexa. The company showed different interactions through

a pre-recorded video and a live demo where Alexa responds to prompts to write a poem, give ideas for a date night and provide a breakdown of a football game. Limp also demonstrated a capability where the voice assistant can prep a text message, though his exchange with Alexa included some awkward pauses where he had to repeat some prompts twice before getting an answer.

The company says its also working on a “speech-to-speech” model that will, for example, allow Alexa to exhibit human-like attributes, such as laughter and phrases like “uh-huh”

during conversations.

Amazon holds the annual gadget event to exhibit new devices in front of journalists and industry insiders before they officially hit the market. Among other things, the tech giant also showcased a fee-based emergency service for Alexa that allows users to call for help without using the phone, new Echo smart speakers as well as Amazon Fire tablets for kids.

In August, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy announced Limp would retire after almost 14 years with the company, where he's overseen innovations in Kindle readers, Amazon's Fire TV and Echo devices. Although the devices unit has rolled out a large number of gadgets over the years, not all of them have caught on. Think the Alexa-enabled microwave or the roaming Astro robot, which Amazon unveiled in 2021

at an introductory price of \$1,000 but has had a limited rollout.

The devices unit was hit by Amazon's company-wide layoffs several months ago. The company's hasn't announced Limp's replacement. Amazon is a leader in the U.S. smart speaker market, commanding nearly 64 million monthly users of its Echo devices, according to Insider Intelligence. But the market research company forecasts that the devices will lose some market share in the next few years as the number of smart speakers continues to grow. Consumers have also become more likely to use their smartphones to access voice assistants instead of smart speakers. □

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Challenges to library books continue at record pace in 2023, American Library Association reports

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Book bans and attempted bans continue to hit record highs, according to the American Library Association. And the efforts now extend as much to public libraries as school-based libraries. Through the first eight months of 2023, the ALA tracked 695 challenges to library materials and services, compared to 681 during the same time period last year, and a 20% jump in the number of “unique titles” involved to 1,915. School libraries had long been the predominant target, but in 2023 reports have been near-equally divided between schools and libraries open to the general public, the ALA announced Wednesday.

“The irony is that you had some censors who said that those who didn’t want books pulled from schools could just go to the public libraries,” says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, who directs the association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom. In 2019, the last pre-pandemic year, the association recorded just



Amanda Darrow, director of youth, family and education programs at the Utah Pride Center, poses with books that have been the subject of complaints from parents on Dec. 16, 2021, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

377 challenges, involving 566 titles. The numbers fell in 2020, when many libraries were closed, but have since risen to the most in the association’s 20-plus year history of compiling data. Because the totals are based on media accounts and reports submitted by librarians, the ALA regards its numbers as snapshots, with

many incidents left unrecorded. Continuing a trend over the past two years, the challenges are increasingly directed against multiple titles. In 2023, complaints about 100 or more works were recorded by the ALA in 11 states, compared to six last year and none in 2021. The most sweeping challenges often originate

with such conservative organizations as Moms for Liberty, which has organized banning efforts nationwide and called for more parental control over books available to children.

“There used to be a roughly one-to-one ratio, where a parent would complain about an individual book, like in the days when many

were objecting to Harry Potter,” Caldwell-Stone says. “Now you have people turning up at meetings and asking that 100 titles be removed.”

The ALA released its numbers in advance of its annual banned books week, Oct. 1-7, when libraries highlight challenged works. Earlier this year, the association issued its annual top 10 list of the books most objected to in 2022, many of them featuring racial and/or LGBTQ themes. Maia Kobabe’s “Gender Queer” topped the list, followed by George Johnson’s “All Boys Aren’t Blue” and Nobel laureate Toni Morrison’s “The Bluest Eye.” Attacks against teachers and librarians have been ongoing in 2023. At Chapin High School in South Carolina, some students alleged that a teacher made them feel “ashamed to be Caucasian” for assigning Ta-Nehisi Coates’ “Between the World and Me,” an open letter to his son about police violence against Black people that won the National Book Award in 2015. The school removed the book from the syllabus. □

John Grisham, George R.R. Martin and more authors sue OpenAI for copyright infringement

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — John Grisham, Jodi Picoult and George R.R. Martin are among 17 authors suing OpenAI for “systematic theft on a mass scale,” the latest in a wave of legal action by writers concerned that artificial intelligence programs are using their copyrighted works without permission.

In papers filed Tuesday in federal court in New York, the authors alleged “flagrant and harmful infringements of plaintiffs’ registered copyrights” and called the ChatGPT program a “massive commercial enterprise” that is reli-

ant upon “systematic theft on a mass scale.”

The suit was organized by the Authors Guild and also



Author John Grisham appears at the opening night of “A Time To Kill” on Broadway in New York on Oct. 20, 2013, left, and author R.R. Martin appears in Toronto on March 12, 2012.

Associated Press

includes David Baldacci, Sylvia Day, Jonathan Franzen and Elin Hilderbrand among others.

“It is imperative that we stop this theft in its tracks or we will destroy our incredible literary culture, which feeds many other creative industries in the U.S.,” Authors Guild CEO Mary Rasenberger said in a statement. “Great books are generally written by those who spend their careers and, indeed, their lives, learning and perfecting their crafts. To preserve our literature, authors must have the ability to control if and how their works are used by generative AI.”

The lawsuit cites specif-

ic ChatGPT searches for each author, such as one for Martin that alleges the program generated “an infringing, unauthorized, and detailed outline for a prequel” to “A Game of Thrones” that was titled “A Dawn of Direwolves” and used “the same characters from Martin’s existing books in the series “A Song of Ice and Fire.”

The press office for OpenAI did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Earlier this month, a handful of authors that included Michael Chabon and David Henry Hwang sued OpenAI in San Francisco for “clear infringement of intellectual property.” □

Castellanos comes up big at the plate and in the field, leading Phillies past Braves 6-5

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Nick Castellanos' teammates didn't want him to catch it. Neither did his manager. Even the Phillies right fielder thought about dropping the fly ball as it sailed toward him in foul territory. Then a voice told him to make the catch.

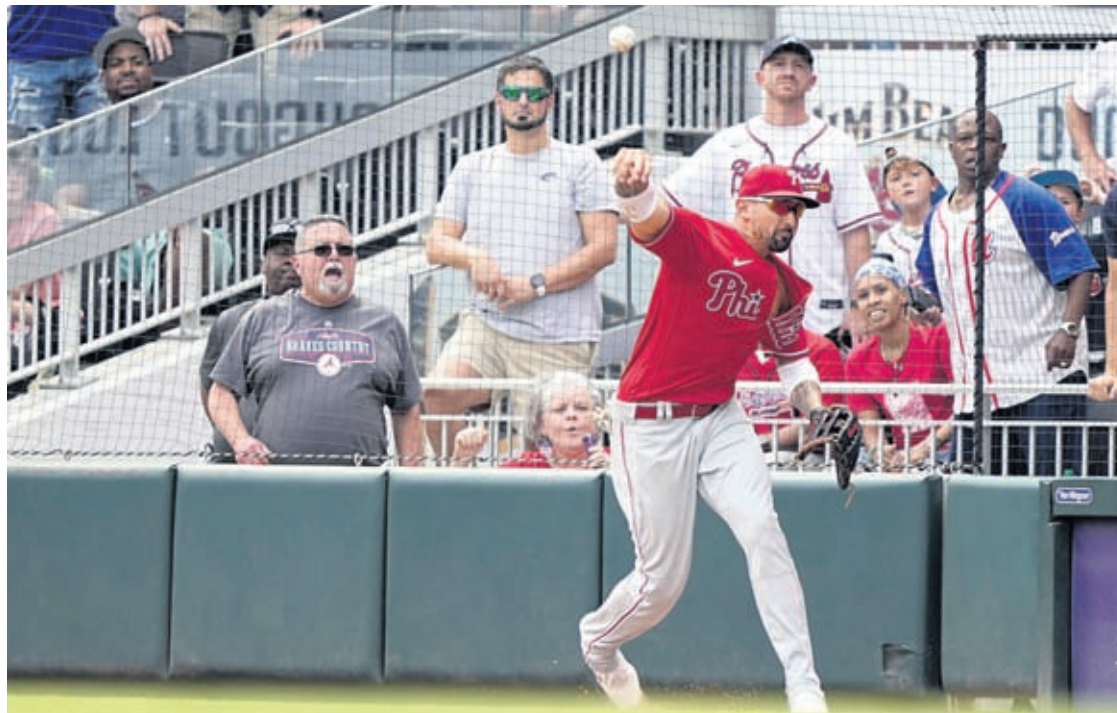
Good thing he listened.

After hitting two home runs, Castellanos saved the game with a brilliant throw as Philadelphia beat the Atlanta Braves 6-5 in 10 innings Wednesday, handing the NL East champions their fifth loss in six games.

The Braves rallied from a four-run deficit and had a chance to walk off with the win in the ninth after pinch-runner Luke Williams stole second and third.

Orlando Arcia hit a fly ball down the right-field line that appeared deep enough to bring home the tagging Williams. But Castellanos made the catch in foul territory, spun completely around and threw home in time for Garrett Stubbs to tag the runner on the right shoulder.

"I thought I should drop it," Castellanos said. "Then,



Philadelphia Phillies right fielder Nick Castellanos (8) throws the ball home in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

at the last minute, a voice popped in my head and said, 'Catch it and throw him out.'"

Phillies manager Rob Thomson was certainly pulling for Castellanos to let the ball hit the ground. He figured there was little chance to throw out Williams from roughly 280 feet away, especially when Castellanos wasn't able to make the catch with his momentum going toward home plate.

"He made a heck of a play," Thomson said. "We were all sitting there in the dugout murmuring, 'Drop it, drop it, drop it.'"

In the 10th, Bryson Stott came through after an intentional walk loaded the bases with two outs, lining an opposite-field double down the third-base line that brought home two runs off A.J. Minter (3-6).

Craig Kimbrel (8-6) claimed the win and Matt Strahm

earned his second save, limiting the Braves to Ozzie Albies' sacrifice fly.

Castellanos staked the Phillies to a 4-0 lead with a pair of homers off Bryce Elder, but the Braves tied it in the eighth with Austin Riley's run-scoring single and Marcell Ozuna's towering drive that ricocheted off the brick wall in right for an RBI double.

The Phillies strengthened their hold on the NL wild-

card lead with 10 games remaining, coming into the day with a 3 1/2-game buffer for a postseason spot. They also won two of three in the series against their division rivals, who they may see again in the playoffs.

A year ago, Philadelphia upset the Braves in the NL Division Series on a surprising run to the World Series.

"We want to play some tight baseball," Castellanos said, "because October is getting pretty close."

The Phillies kept Ronald Acuña Jr. in the ballpark after he went deep twice the previous night, leaving the Braves slugger/speedster one homer shy of becoming the first player in baseball history with at least 40 homers and 60 stolen bases in a season. □

Acuña went 1 for 5 with a run scored, remaining at 39 homers and 67 stolen bases.

Castellanos led off the second with a 432-foot drive to center and followed in the fourth with a two-run shot off Elder.

It was the fourth multihomer game of the season and 13th of his career for Castellanos, who has 27 homers on the season. □

Browns re-sign running back Kareem Hunt after star Nick Chubb lost for season with left knee injury

By **TOM WITHERS**

AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Kareem Hunt ran right back to the Browns.

Desperate to find a quality running back after losing star Nick Chubb for the season, the Browns have reunited with Hunt, who was available as a free agent and is expected to be able to help Cleveland's offense immediately.

The team is giving Hunt a one-year deal worth up to \$4 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. Hunt's deal includes numerous incentives, said the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity be-

cause the team is not making the terms public.

A Cleveland-area native, Hunt spent four seasons with the Browns before the team decided not to re-sign him this offseason. His departure came following a turbulent 2022 during which he asked for a new contract and to be traded. Because he already knows the system, the 28-year-old Hunt can step right in and likely will play Sunday when the Browns (1-1) host the Tennessee Titans (1-1).

Hunt will back up Jerome Ford, who came off the bench and ran for 106 yards on Monday after Chubb got hurt. Hunt visited several teams over the

summer but stayed in the area and was available.

Hunt visited the Browns on Tuesday and the sides quickly worked out a deal. Chubb is facing more surgery on his left knee after tearing ligaments when he was hit by Pittsburgh safety Minkah Fitzpatrick. The four-time Pro Bowler sustained a major injury to the same knee in 2015 when he played at Georgia.

The team placed Chubb on injured reserve.

Hunt and Chubb once gave the Browns the top 1-2 running back tandem in the NFL. Hunt rushed for 1,874 yards and 16 touchdowns in four seasons with Cleveland. He was also ef-



Cleveland Browns running back Kareem Hunt (27) stands on the sidelines during the second half of an NFL football game in Cleveland, Monday, Oct. 31, 2022.

Associated Press

fective as a pass catcher, getting 211 receptions for 1,806 yards.

Hunt led the league in rushing as a rookie in 2017 for Kansas City.

His career took a turn the following year after video surfaced of him pushing a woman in the hallway of a hotel in downtown Cleveland.

The NFC is off to a record-setting start to the NFL season with seven teams at 2-0

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

The AFC came into the season with the lion's share of the top quarterbacks and Super Bowl contenders, led by passers such as Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen and Joe Burrow.

Two weeks into the 2023 NFL season, it's the NFC that's off to a record-setting start to the season.

Led by three undefeated teams in both the NFC East and NFC South, the NFC has seven teams off to a 2-0 start, the first time that has ever happened in a single conference.

With the Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers fresh off two convincing wins, along with last sea-



Dallas Cowboys defensive tackle Osa Odighizuwa celebrates after a sack against the New York Jets during the second half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Aug. 17, 2023. Associated Press

son's Super Bowl runner-up Philadelphia, the NFC currently has three of the four biggest favorites to win this

season's Super Bowl. The other undefeated teams in the NFC are Washington in the East and New

Orleans, Atlanta and Tampa Bay in the South, which was slated to be perhaps the worst division in the

league.

The AFC has only two undefeated teams Miami and Baltimore tied for the fewest of any conference after two weeks since the start of the eight-division era in 2002.

The Cowboys are the fifth team in the Super Bowl era to score at least 70 points and allow 10 or fewer in the first two games of the season, joining the 2019 Patriots, 1970 Lions, 1967 Raiders and 1966 Oilers.

Dallas' plus-60 point differential is 30 points better than the second-place 49ers the biggest gap between the No. 1 and 2 teams after two weeks since 1989, when the Browns were plus-65 and the Bears plus-34.

COMEBACK KIDS

Sunday was a day for historic comebacks in the NFL.

The New York Giants came back from 21 points down to beat Arizona 31-28 for their biggest comeback win since 1949, while Washington overcame an 18-point deficit to win 35-33 at Denver.

This was the 12th time that two teams overcame deficits that big to win in the same week. It last happened in Week 2 last season.

The turnaround for the Giants was truly impressive. New York lost the opener 40-0 to Dallas and trailed 20-0 at the half in Arizona.

It was the first time since 1934 that New York failed to score in the first six quarters. The Giants recovered that season to win the NFL title.

The 60 points allowed by the Giants before their first score were the second most since 1950, according to Sportradar, trailing only the 86 for the 1978 Colts and 99 for the 1961 Raiders.

Two other teams came back from at least 11 points down, with Atlanta rallying past Green Bay and Tennessee doing the same against the Chargers. That's one shy of the record for one week. □



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